

CPAC Bulletin

July 2007

MEETING REMINDER: The Climate Protection Action Committee's next meeting will be on Thursday, July 12, 6:00 pm at Cambridge City Hall Annex, 4th Floor.

Events & Meetings

- ☛ **Green Building Trainings** – The [Green Roundtable](#) is co-sponsoring 2 upcoming trainings. *LEED-NC Technical Review Workshop*; July 12, all day, Cambridge. *LEED-CI Technical Review Workshop*, July 18, all day, Boston. For more information, contact Noah Chesnin at noah@greenroundtable.org.
- ☛ **BOMA Conference** – At the [BOMA International North American Commercial Real Estate Congress and Office Building Show](#), July 21-24, in New York City, a 12 workshop track on green buildings will be offered. In addition, there will be workshops on “valuing energy enhancement projects and financial returns” and “assessing the investment value of sustainable design”.
- ☛ **Green Streets** – This Cambridge project led by Janie Katz-Christy encourages people to use a green form of transportation (transit, bicycle, walk, pogo stick) on a designated day of the month and to wear a green-colored item of attire. The goal is to make Cambridge safer, quieter and friendlier for pedestrians and cyclists, and to minimize the use and impact of cars in Cambridge. Generally, the designated day is the last Friday of the month; July 27 is the next walk/ride day. Check the [Cambridge Green Streets Initiative website](#) for more info.

News

- ☛ **Harvard News** – The [Harvard Green Campus Initiative](#) has been engaged by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences to prepare a business plan that would enable FAS to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 11% below 1990 levels. The plan will identify a strategy for the school to reach this target. In the fall of 2006, 86% of undergraduate students voted to request that FAS reduce GHG emissions by 11% below 1990 levels, which was chosen because it was 1% higher than the 10% target adopted by Yale.

[Harvard](#) has updated its greenhouse gas emissions inventory through 2006. Despite the wide range of sustainability actions taken at Harvard, university-wide emissions have increased 3.6% since the previous year and 59% since 1992. The increases have been driven by continued growth in demand for electricity and steam. The Cambridge/Allston campus, which is responsible for 80% of the university's total emissions, rose 5.2% over the previous year and 42.6% since 1990. This trend parallels GHG emissions across Cambridge and the U.S.

- ☛ **LEED Energy Requirements Increased** – The **U.S. Green Building Council** has increased the energy performance requirement for most of its LEED green building rating systems. By a vote of its membership, USGBC now requires achievement of the first two points under the Energy and Atmosphere section for “optimize energy performance”. This will require new construction to improve energy performance over a base case by 14% and for existing buildings by 7%. The new requirement was proposed as part of the USGBC’s commitment to contributing to solutions to climate change. The new requirement applies to all projects that are registered for LEED certification as of June 26, 2007 and after.
- ☛ **China Now Biggest Emitter** – According to the **Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency**, China surpassed the U.S. as the leading emitter of greenhouse gases in 2006. China emits about 8% more than the U.S. In 2006, US emissions decreased slightly while China’s emissions increased. Cement manufacturing is a large portion of China’s emissions. While China now leads in total emissions, US per capita emissions are still about quadruple those of per capita emissions in China. Also much of China’s emissions are associated with manufacturing goods for export to other countries including the U.S.
- ☛ **NEWFS Climate Change Policy** – The **New England Wildflower Society**, the leading plant conservation organization in the region, has issued a Policy on Climate Change. The new policy notes the projected changes in vegetation patterns which include: the optimal range for northeastern tree species could shift 100 to 300 mile northward by the end of the century; changes in forest types include the likely extirpation of spruce-fir forests from New England, a large reduction of maple-beech-birch forests, reduction of aspen-birch forests, and an increase of oak-hickory and oak-pine types; increases in evapo-transpiration and evaporation could eliminate bog ecosystems; and an increase in pests, diseases, and invasive species can be expected. The Society notes that it will have to adapt its plant conservation strategies to a new paradigm and sets out steps it will take.

Resources & Ideas

- ☛ **Cambridge Energy Alliance** – Residents, businesses, and organizations can indicate their interest in the services of the **Cambridge Energy Alliance** by going to the website and registering. No obligation is implied. Those who register will receive periodic updates and notice as to when services become available.
- ☛ **MTC LORI Grants** – The **Mass. Technology Collaborative** has opened another round of its Large Onsite Renewables Initiative program. The LORI program provides grants for feasibility studies, design, and construction for renewable energy systems of 10 kilowatts or larger. The application deadline is August 21.
- ☛ **Climate Counts Rates Companies** – **Climate Counts** is a new non-profit organization, funded by Stoneyfield Yogurt and launched in collaboration with

Clean Air Cool Planet, which is scoring companies on their efforts to reduce climate change. The scorecard rates companies on a scale of 1 to 100 using 22 criteria to evaluate whether they have measured their carbon footprint, reduced their climate impact, supported progressive climate legislation, and have publicly disclosed their actions.

☛ **Inconvenient Truth Slideshow Presenters** – A number of Cantabrigians have participated in Al Gore's training and are available to present slideshows using Gore's material. To arrange a show, contact one of the following Climate Protection Volunteers. We will list others as we obtain contact information: Peter Pruyn, pwp@airmail.net, 617-354-8425; Ileana Jones, 617-497-1246.

☛ **Cambridge Businesses Composting** – At least 30 businesses and organizations have signed up for the **Department of Public Works** commercial organics collection service. Restaurants, hotels, florists and others are diverting 10 to 15 tons of food and other organic waste to composting daily, and saving money and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the process. Interested businesses and organizations can contact Save that Stuff, the City's contractor, for more information at 617-241-9998 or adam@savethatstuff.com.

CAMBRIDGE CLIMATE PROTECTION PROGRAM INFO: See <http://www.cambridgema.gov/climate>. Recent issues of the CPAC Bulletin are posted on the website. For further information, contact John Bolduc, jbalduc@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-4628